

the many important topics recapitulated may be cited the relation of birds to the cotton boll weevil; California birds in relation to the fruit industry; food of wild ducks; food of woodpeckers; mosquito-eating birds; birds in relation to the codling moth; the economic relations of the Grosbeaks; spread of the English Sparrow in southern California; means of attracting birds; geographic distribution; game protection, etc. Respecting the latter we quote a single paragraph: "Difficult problems attach also to the task of preserving the non-game birds of the country. Capture of native birds for millinery purposes and for the cage-bird market is under fairly good control; but questions that press constantly for settlement arise through absorption of breeding haunts to meet the needs of spreading civilization, the great increase in the number of persons who shoot birds, and other agencies of depletion resulting from changed conditions." The measures taken to meet these problems are briefly recounted, as well as those to prevent the importation of undesirable birds and mammals. An attempt is now being made to prevent the spread of the English Sparrow into southern California; also to ascertain the present distribution of the Starling in this country, with a view "to devising means to check further increase of its range and to eradicate the pest, as far as possible, in the territory now occupied." It is of interest to here further note that "During the year the office of Geographic Distribution has made considerable advance in mapping the distribution of American birds and mammals, and in getting its accumulated data into shape for convenient reference and use." Meanwhile the gathering of such information on a broad scale continues, while reports on sections already surveyed are being prepared for publication.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Bailey's 'Handbook of Birds of the Western United States.'<sup>1</sup>—The third edition of Mrs. Bailey's 'Handbook' differs from the former editions through the correction of the additional errors discovered, the substitution of many drawings of bird-skins in place of photographs, and a revision of the text under the genus *Astragalinus* to bring it into accord with the rulings of the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature. The work is thus not materially changed, this new edition being issued to meet the continued demand for this excellent handbook.—J. A. A.

#### Richmond's List of Generic Terms proposed for Birds during 1901-1905.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Handbook of Birds of the Western United States including the Great Plains, Great Basin, Pacific Slope, and Lower Rio Grande Valley | By Florence Merriam Bailey | With thirty-three full-page plates by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, and over six hundred cuts in the text | Third edition, revised | [Emblem] Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press Cambridge.—12mo., pp. xc + 514. \$3.50, net; postpaid, \$3.69.

<sup>2</sup> Generic Names applied to Birds during the years 1901 to 1905, inclusive, with further Additions to Waterhouse's "Index Generum Avium." By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator, Division of Birds, U. S. National Museum. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXXV, pp. 583-655. Published Dec. 16, 1908.

This is a continuation of Dr. Richmond's 'List of Generic Terms proposed for Birds' published in 1902,<sup>1</sup> and includes, besides new names, many heretofore generally overlooked. The new names here recorded for this five-year period number about 200, "with about 350 others of earlier date, the majority of which are not recorded by Waterhouse" in his 'Index Generum Avium,' published in 1889. Of these 350 names, more than one third, or about 125, are marked with an asterisk to indicate that they are *nomina nuda* or else of "undecided status," or "names about the status of which there may be differences of opinion"; such as, for example where the name rests solely on a diagnosis, or on a drawing of structural details (like some of Reichenbach's), or on a vernacular name. This category includes a large part of Billberg's 50 new names (published in 1828), most of Brookes's 40 (published also in 1828), and most of the names (about 50) of Morris, C. T. and N. Wood, and S. D. W. (dating from 1837). It is a pity such worthless lumber could not have remained in oblivion. On the other hand, many of the old names here listed have sufficient basis and are entitled to the recognition required by the law of priority.

As in Dr. Richmond's previous 'List of Generic Terms,' the subject is well handled and the references and results are clearly and satisfactorily presented, the 'List' forming a most valuable supplement to previous indexes to the generic names of birds. The numerous footnotes add valuable comment on many intricate points, and include several changes of names, including names of species as well as of genera. Thus *Aaptus* Richmond, 1902 (= *Aphobus* Cabanis, 1851, preoccupied) is found to be preoccupied and is accordingly changed to *Gnorimopsar*. *Accentor* Bechstein, 1802, becomes *Laiscopsus* Gloger, 1842. *Amandava* Blyth, 1836, has priority over *Sporaginthus* Cabanis, 1850. *Passerherbulus* Maynard, 1895, has priority over *Ammospiza* Oberholser, 1905. *Carpophagus* Selby, 1835, being preoccupied, gives way to *Muscadivores* Gray, 1855. *Conoponderas* Billberg, 1828, has priority over *Tatare* Lesson, 1831. *Halohippus* Billberg, 1828, has priority over *Rhantistes* Kaup, 1829, both being monotypic with the same type (*Procellaria glacialis* Linn.). *Pogonornis* Gray, 1846, being preoccupied by *Pogonornis* Billberg, 1828, is here renamed *Notiomystis* Richmond. *Tanagra* Linnæus, dating from 1764 (instead of 1766 as usually cited), has the type here first designated, as follows: "So far as I know the type of *Tanagra* at 1764 is yet to be fixed, and as 'first reviser,' under the rules of the new International Code, I will select *Fringilla violacea* Linnæus, 1758, as the type. This . . . will permit us to use *Tanagaridæ* for the family, *Tangara* Brisson, for the Callistes, *Euphonia* Desmarest (*Tanagra* Linnæus, 1764, preoccupied [antedated] by *Tangara* Brisson) for the *Euphoniæ*s, and *Thraupis* Boie, for the 'true' Tanagers. Those who reject Brisson's names may use *Tanagridæ*, *Calospiza*, *Tanagra*, and *Thraupis* for the same groups." This comes about from the fact that *Tanagra* of Linnæus in 1764 (*Mus. Adolphi Friderici*) contained only three

<sup>1</sup> See Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 307.

pecies, only one of which was as a member of the family of Tanagers, the others being Icterines — one a *Leistes*, the other a *Cassicus*, while the third (and last) is a *Euphonia*.— J. A. A.

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